

Filed for intro on 02/01/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0032
By Person, Jr.

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MR. PATRICK J. WRENN.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the elected members of this General Assembly to honor those Tennesseans who, through their talents, have excelled in their chosen profession, contributing to the well-being of the state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Patrick J. Wrenn is one such person, a champion of the martial arts who has parlayed his skills into helping others realize their goals; and

WHEREAS, born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1947 to Bernice R. Wrenn and Edward M. Wrenn, Jr., founder of American Realty Service Corporation, Patrick was reared in Birmingham, Alabama, and educated in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Patrick, upon his graduation from college, was employed as vice-president of American Realty followed by his employment as vice-president of Mid-American Collection Services and owner of Kaleidoscope Pets where he raised and sold exotic animals; and

WHEREAS, also upon his graduation, Patrick married Dianne Wrenn, now deceased, and fathered his first son, Cosmos B. Wrenn; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Patrick began studying the martial arts under the direction of Memphis attorney and black belt, Mack Dickinson; and

WHEREAS, during the past 28 years, Patrick has earned black belts in three styles of karate including a 4th degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do, a 4th degree black belt in Shorin Ryu, and a 6th degree black belt in the American Style of Karate which classifies Patrick as a Master Instructor; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was co-owner of the Tennessee Karate Institute with Red West, Bill Wallace and Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has served as a personal security specialist with celebrities such as Sylvester Stallone, Crystal Gayle, the Doobie Brothers, and Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has been featured in several local television and radio shows and newspaper articles as well as having been featured in national publications including Kung Fu Magazine, Fighter Magazine and Masters of the Martial Arts Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is a member of the World Martial Arts Congress for Education, American Independent Karate Instructors Association, American Ninjutsu Federation, Professional Karate League, and NFL Players Association; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has promoted martial arts competitions such as the Memphis International Martial Arts Competition as part of the Memphis in May salute to Japan and the Elvis Presley Memorial Karate Tournament, the proceeds from which benefited Memphis area children's hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Patrick was ranked 6th in the world as a light-heavyweight kickboxer; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, while fighting in the National Karate Championship in Dallas, Texas, Patrick broke his back and was told that he would not walk again; and

WHEREAS, after a surgery resulted in Patrick's loss of three vertebrae and five disks, Patrick began his miraculous recovery and ultimately began his career as a trainer and instructor; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was the State of Tennessee's first licensed kickboxing judge, now an "A"-rated world-class kickboxing judge by the Professional Karate Commission, and Karate International Council and first licensed kickboxing promoter; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is a licensed world martial arts registered instructor and a licensed professional boxing and kickboxing trainer and has trained fighters including John Lee, Robert McFarland and Aaron Pryor; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has contributed his time and many talents as a volunteer motivational and agility coach of the University of Memphis football team which has also included Patrick's participation in the teams' off-season conditioning program; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is the author of PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE SKILLS, which he has taught at Patrick Wrenn's Combative Arts in Memphis, Tennessee, Fayette Academy in Fayette County, Tennessee, Parkwood Hospital in Mississippi, Lakeside Hospital in Tennessee, and Glenn Martin High School in Crossville, Tennessee. PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE SKILLS is a program which focuses on physical exercise as a method for developing the skills necessary for youth and adults to deal with anger management, drug and alcohol abuse problems and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is the presenter of a program entitled "Be the Best You Can Be" that is an assembly program that builds self-esteem in an effort to assist the audiences to cope with temptations such as drugs, alcohol and violence. in the past two years Patrick has presented his program to over 40,000 children and adults in a three state area; and

WHEREAS, Patrick's students include at-risk youth, businessmen and women, judges, doctors, lawyers, community leaders, professional and college athletes, children, head trauma victims, blind and deaf children and adults, victims of arthritis, spina bifida, and Down's Syndrome, area law enforcement officers including S.W.A.T. Team officers and celebrities; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Patrick was named the World Martial Arts Federation's Martial Arts Instructor of the Year which recognized him for his ability to instill confidence in his students and for his unique teaching skills; and

WHEREAS, Patrick has volunteered countless hours assisting children and youth to “Be The Best They Can Be” and be drug-free, alcohol-free and violence-free; and in 1994, whereas, Patrick was a volunteer presenter at the Tennessee Governor’s Conference for Drug-Free Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Wrenn is the current world record holder for breaking the most boards in the least amount of time which includes the following record: 252 boards broken one at a time in 60 seconds, 300 boards broken one at a time in 80 seconds, 503 boards broken one at a time in 181 seconds and 1184 boards broken one at a time in 11 minutes 42 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Patrick was inducted into the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 1992 and on June 10, 1994, was inducted into the International Karate/Kickboxing Hall of Fame along with such Karate greats as Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and accolades aside, Patrick is most appreciative of the love and support of family: His mother, Bernice R. Wrenn (deceased), formerly of Birmingham, Alabama; his brother, Christopher E. Wrenn (deceased), formerly of Memphis, Tennessee; his brother, Richard Wrenn and his father, Edward Wrenn, Jr., both formerly of Memphis and now residing in Florida; and most of all, his two sons, Patrick L. Wrenn, who attends Keystone Optional School in Memphis, and Cosmos B. Wrenn, who attends the University of Memphis where he is majoring in Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Patrick is also most appreciative of the support of his many friends and students, especially Barry Luka and Tony Nabors, both of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it is important that this legislative body honors those inimitable Tennesseans who have achieved great success in their lives and whose many contributions have redounded to the benefit of the public good; now, therefore,

BE IS RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That we salute Mr. Patrick J. Wrenn for his outstanding contributions to the martial arts and for his unrelenting support of this state's most treasured resource, our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Mr. Wrenn our best wishes for his continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be passed for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.